

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

DOT-00 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 H-02 OMB-01 RSR-01 /094 W
----- 011969

R 210250 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4707

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 7773

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, JA, CH, TS

SUBJECT: GOJ REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING USE OF TWO TOKYO
AIRPORTS TO SOLVE CHINA AVIATION PROBLEM

SUMMARY: GOJ APPARENTLY CONSIDERING PLAN IN WHICH CAL
FLIGHT WOULD USE HANEDA AIRPORT WHILE ALL OTHER INTER-
NATIONAL FLIGHTS, INCLUDING THOSE OF CAAC, WOULD USE
NEW AIRPORT AT NARITA. MOT OFFICIALS HAVE DOWNPLAYED
STATUS OF THIS PROPOSAL DESPITE STATEMENT BY MOT
MINISTER THAT BOTH AIRPORTS MAY BE USED FOR INTERNATIONAL
OPERATIONS. US CARRIERS CONCERNED RE POSSIBLE EX-
CEPTIONS TO GOJ DIRECTIVE THAT ALL INTERNATIONAL
OPERATIONS MOVE TO NARITA WHEN COMPLETED. END SUMMARY.

1. IN PAST FEW DAYS PRESS HAS CARRIED NUMBER OF ARTICLES
REPORTING WORKING- LEVEL PLAN TO BREAK IMPASS IN GOJ- PRC
AVIATION TALKS. UNDER PLAN CAL WOULD USE PRESENT TOKYO
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT HANEDA WHILE CAAC FLIGHTS WOULD
USE NEW TOKYO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT NARITA (PRESENTLY
SCHEDULED TO OPEN AROUND SPRING 1974), IN THAT WAY AVOIDING
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PROBLEM RAISED BY PRC OF QTE EMBARRASSMENT UNQTE CAUSED BY POSSIBILITY THAT AIRPLANES OF BOTH CAL AND CAAC WOULD BE ON GROUND OF AIRPORT NEAR EACH OTHER. IN ADDITION, SOME PRESS ARTICLES REPORTED THAT HANEDA WOULD CONTINUE TO BE USED, ACCORDING TO PLAN, FOR SOME REGIONAL FLIGHTS (E. G. TOKYO- SEOUL, BUT WITHOUT INDICATING WHETHER THIS WOULD APPLY TO ALL CARRIERS).

2. IN RESPONSE TO ECON/ COUNS' QUESTIONS RE PRESS REPORTS, JCAB DEPUTY DIRECTOR GOTO STATED THAT MOT AND FONOFF HAD NOT DECIDED UPON GOJ POSITION AT NEXT ROUND OF AVIATION TALKS AND THAT WHILE SOME FONOFF OFFICIALS FELT THAT GOJ SHOULD QTE DO SOMETHING TOWARD CHINA UNQTE, THERE WAS NO THOUGHT BEING GIVEN TO USING TWO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS IN TOKYO TO AVOID CONTACTS.

3. IN MIDST OF THIS CONVERSATION GOTO WAS APPRISED BY HIS STAFF OF MINISTER SHINTANI' S JUNE 19 PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH HE REPORTEDLY STATED THAT IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS TO USE NARITA AND THAT THEREFORE THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT BOTH HANEDA AND NARITA MIGHT BE USED AS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS IN THE FUTURE. WHILE NO DIRECT REFERENCE APPARENTLY MADE TO DEADLOCKED AVIATION TALKS, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT WAS BASIS FOR SHINTANI' S STATEMENT. DESPITE STATEMENT, GOTO REITERATED THAT IT WOULD BE VERY HARD TO CARRY OUT PLAN INVOLVING USE OF BOTH HANEDA AND NARITA BY INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS.

4. AS EMBASSY HAS ALREADY REPORTED (AND CONFIRMED BY GOTO), SOME CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN BY JCAB IN THE PAST TO OPENING OF NARITA TO ONLY LIMITED INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC FOR INITIAL PERIOD PENDING RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM OF TRANSPORTING FUEL TO NARITA. HOWEVER, THIS PROPOSAL APPARENTLY HAS BEEN DISCARDED BY JCAB. ONE FACTOR IN DECISION WAS THAT UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION, ONCE NARITA IS OPENED, GOJ IMMIGRATION OFFICE WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE TRANSFERRED FROM HANEDA TO NARITA.

5. PAN AM AND FLYING TIGERS REPRESENTATIVES HAVE CALLED EMBASSY TO EXPRESS CONCERN RE POSSIBLE EXCEPTIONS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ORIGINAL GOJ DIRECTIVES THAT ALL INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS WOULD HAVE TO MOVE THEIR OPERATIONS EXCLUSIVELY TO NARITA. WHILE THEY INDICATED THEY MIGHT BE WILLING TO LIVE WITH USE OF HANEDA LIMITED TO CAL, THEY ARE CLEARLY NERVOUS ABOUT QTE REGIONAL OPERATIONS UNQTE AND ESPECIALLY ABOUT ANY POSSIBLE JAL OPERATIONS CONTINUING AT HANEDA, E. G. IN EVENT JAL' S TAIWAN FLIGHTS WOULD ALSO BE SERVICED

BY HANEDA.

6. COMMENT: WHILE PLAN INVOLVING ROUTING OF CAL AIRCRAFT TO HANEDA WHEN OTHER INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS SHIFTS TO NARITA APPARENTLY BEING DEBATED AT SOME LEVEL OF GOJ, EMBASSY BELIEVES PLAN REPRESENTS TRIAL BALLOON RATHER THAN FULL FLEDGED PROPOSAL. IF INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS AT HANEDA WERE LIMITED STRICTLY TO CAL OPERATIONS, OTHER INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS WOULD PROBABLY NOT OBJECT VIGOROUSLY. HOWEVER, IF JAL FLIGHTS TO TAIWAN WERE TO BE OPERATED THROUGH HANEDA, SERIOUS OPPOSITION WOULD PROBABLY DEVELOP.
SHOESMITH

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